

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Plant Materials

PLANTING GUIDE
Colorado 1978

This planting guide **is** provided to assist in evaluating Tegmar dwarf intermediate wheatgrass as an erosion control plant for Colorado.

Species: Agropyron intermedium
Common Name: Dwarf intermediate wheatgrass
Accession No.: Tegmar (P-14)

Description: Tegmar is a long-lived, late-maturing, densely-sodding strain of intermediate wheatgrass. It is generally about one-half the height of commercial varieties of intermediate. Leaves are numerous and grow mostly from the base.

Seedling vigor is good and drought tolerance is about equal to pubescent wheatgrass.

Tegmar was selected for erosion control in waterways and constructed water channels where velocities don't exceed three feet per second. It is most commonly recommended for waterways on non-irrigated cropland.

Dwarf intermediate wheatgrass is not as drought tolerant as Sodar, but is superior in establishment and density with adequate moisture.

Site Selection for Field Plantings:

MLRA 35, 36, 48, and 40

Moderately deep to deep, well-drained, medium to fine textured soils receiving thirteen inches or more annual precipitation.

Establishment: Seedbed - A firm, moist, weed-free seedbed is essential. Good emergence and establishment depend on adequate moisture near the soil surface until the root system is established.

Seeding rate - **14** pounds/acre PLS. Tegmar has approximately 125,000 seeds/pound.

Seeding date - Late fall plantings are recommended if the area is protected from excessive erosion or siltation. Early spring plantings after runoff period are successful in the higher (16" plus) rainfall zone.

Seeding method - Tegmar dwarf intermediate wheatgrass can be drilled with a good grain drill or **grass** drill. Seeding depth should be 1/2 inch. Narrow drill spacing (6 inches) will provide faster **soil** cover.

Stand Management:

Fertilizing - Application of **30-40** lbs. of available nitrogen will aid establishment on **low** fertility sites.

Grazing - **Do** not graze new seedings. The forage can **be** cut for hay leaving **2-4** inches stubble height to maintain plant vigor and provide **soil** protection.

Weed control - **2,4-D** can be used for controlling **annuals** after the grass develops to the **6** leaf growth stage.

New seedings - **Water** should not **be** allowed to run **down** the waterway or outlet channel, **if** possible, until the new grass seeding is one year old. **Flows** should be limited until grass **is** established and provides full protection.

Standard:

Certified Luna pubescent wheatgrass or Manchar smooth brome grass should be used as standards for comparison.

Evaluations :

Annual evaluations should include as a minimum:

1. Stand - average plants/square foot
2. Vigor growth and general appearance
3. Density - % grown cover (shadow)
4. Spread - movement by rhizomes

Annual evaluations should be made for a minimum of .5 years.